

PollWorkerPulse

Spring 2008

The Newsletter for and about Miami-Dade Election Workers

Message from the Supervisor of Elections

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for making the January 29, 2008 Presidential Preference Primary a success. Thank you for continuing to demonstrate your commitment to our electoral process by attending all of the necessary training sessions. You are the critical element of our election system, as you are the heroes that powerfully affect our voters' experience on Election Day. You should be proud of the service you provide to Miami-Dade County.



Lester Sola

Going into the Presidential Preference Primary, we expected the turnout to be higher than the normal 15-20% range. However, this past election greatly exceeded our expectations. Over 36% of the registered voters in Miami-Dade County cast a ballot in the Presidential Preference Primary, which was the highest turnout in a primary in our county's history.

This was also the first countywide election where every clerk and assistant clerk was certified since the implementation of the Poll Workers Certification Program. All Poll Workers are encouraged to complete the program, not only because we feel our program is one of the best in the country, but because the knowledge gained will only make us better at achieving our ultimate goal, a problem-free election. We strongly encourage you to log-in to our online training website: <http://miamidade-fl.training.clarityelections.com/> to refresh or enhance your knowledge of the elections policies and procedures, in light of recent changes.

We should use the lessons learned from this past election to prepare for the upcoming countywide elections this year. As you may know, the Presidential Preference Primary was the last countywide election in which the touch screen voting equipment was used as our central voting system. The introduction of the new optical scan paper-based system will take place during Early Voting and on Election Day for the August 26, 2008 Primary Election. The Elections Community Outreach & Training Division has been tasked to educate and prepare both voters and Poll Workers through introduction events and classes during the months of April and May. Poll Workers will be contacted by staff to schedule the introductory classes that will occur in various sites throughout the county.

With the next countywide primary election less than six months away, how we prepare now will determine how well we will do in August and November. Because of the commitment, dedication and enthusiasm you have shown in the past, I am confident we will do well in the transition to the new paper-based voting system.

The Future is NOW

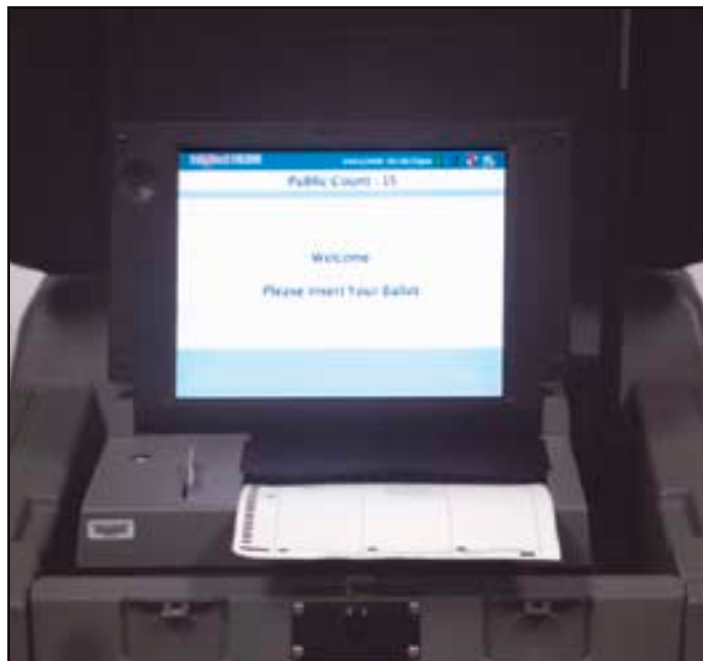
The Next Generation DS200 Optical Scan Voting Machine!

The introduction of the paper-based voting equipment in August 2008, as mandated by state law, will require supplementary training. Work with your Poll Worker Schedulers to take advantage of all training classes available.

One of the most important challenges prior to a countywide election is the scheduling of a large number of Poll Workers at various training sites throughout Miami-Dade County over a short period of time. Thus far, this process has been successful thanks to the Elections Department Poll Worker Schedulers persistence coupled with your absolute commitment to serve this community. The Miami-Dade Elections Department would like to train all Poll Workers at least three times in the upcoming months before the August election. You should work closely with your Poll Worker Schedulers to take advantage of all training classes available.

Once again, the Miami-Dade County Elections Department's assurance that you can competently discharge your Poll Worker duties is plain and

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The Future is NOW

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simple: **TRAINING, TRAINING AND TRAINING.** More than ever before, this is a unique opportunity to once again provide the Poll Workers with service excellence while scheduling them to mandatory training and assigning them to precincts.

Introducing the paper-based optical scanning voting equipment means that Poll Workers who were previously certified under the touch-screen iVotronic System will have to get familiar with the new blended system, which is a combination of the touch-screen iVotronic and the paper-based optical scan system. We have a training plan, a strategy for implementing our plan, and a team of Poll Worker Schedulers who stand ready to assist with any question that you may have.

2008 Countywide Elections

08/26/2008	Miami-Dade County Primary Election (Registration Closing - July 28)
11/04/2008	Miami-Dade County General Election (Registration Closing - Oct. 06)

Did You Know...?

Do you know the difference between an Open, Closed and Universal Primary?

Open Primary is a primary election in which voters are not required to publicly choose one party or the other. A voter enters the voting booth and chooses the party ballot they will vote. A voter does not need to be a member of a particular political party in order to vote in that party's primary.

Closed Primary is a primary election where voters may vote in a party's primary only if they are registered members of that party prior to book closing. Non-Partisan voters cannot participate in party contests. The state of Florida is a closed primary state.

Universal Primary is a primary election where all candidates for an office have the same political party and the winner will run unopposed in the General Election. All qualified voters regardless of party affiliation may vote in that primary.

The upcoming August 26, 2008 Primary Election will be a closed primary for the State and Federal elected positions, in which voters must vote according to their own political party affiliation. As such, there are three different ballots (Republican, Democrat and Non-Partisan), and in a split or same board precinct there may be up to six different ballots.

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Check-In Inspectors must be very careful to select the correct Voter Authorization Slip (VAS) for each voter and must verbally verify their party affiliation to the voter, before having them sign the register and VAS. Ballot Table Inspectors must also be very careful in selecting the correct ballot and must also verbally verify the ballot they are handing the voter.

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If a voter refutes the precinct register's listing of the party affiliation they are registered as, they may vote a provisional ballot for the party of their choice.

Poll Worker Incentive Programs

The Miami-Dade County Elections Department has developed several incentive programs to inspire all individuals interested in participating in the democratic process.

The first of these incentives is the Poll Worker Book Scholarship. There are ten, \$500 scholarships available for high school seniors and ten \$1,000 scholarships available for college students. These scholarships are designed to attract college-bound and energetic Poll Workers interested in the electoral process. The students applying for the scholarship must be an active registered voter in Miami-Dade County and have a 3.0 grade point average. The student must become a certified Poll Worker and must work during the 2008 Election Cycle. Finally, all applicants must write a 500 word essay on "How participating in the 2008 Election Cycle affected their thoughts on the electoral process."

The Elections Department is also offering an incentive program for referring a Poll Worker. The goal is to create a pool of certified Poll Workers who are available for upcoming elections. By using word of mouth as a tool, the Elections Department plans to use already dedicated Poll Workers as a vehicle to secure other enthusiastic Poll Workers. An existing Poll Worker may refer any other registered voter in Miami-Dade County to become a Poll Worker. The referred voter must pass the online entrance exam, complete the Poll Worker Certification Course, and work at least one countywide election. There are one-thousand \$25 referrals available, so go out and tell a friend today!



These are just a few examples of the exciting programs the Elections Department is offering to make the electoral process exciting and appealing. Being a Poll Worker is a great way to assist democracy, participate in your community, and be an asset to your friends at the Miami-Dade County Elections Department.

The Training Division

This is a historic year for the Elections Department, which means the voters of Miami-Dade County need our Poll Workers more than ever. The Governor signed into law a new voting system that goes into effect July 1, 2008 so we have to retrain Poll Workers to serve our voters on the new system. There are also new exciting positions that have been created. The new introduction to DS200 classes started on March 31, 2008 and continue through May 24, 2008. Certification classes for the new blended system for new Poll Workers will be from March 31, 2008 through July 25, 2008. We will have refresher classes for the August 26, 2008 primary election from June 1, 2008 through August 15, 2008. It takes a team of dedicated individuals to train all of the Poll Workers that are needed to run an election. Our staff offers training at various sites around Miami-Dade County including the Doral Headquarters of the Elections Department. We look forward to seeing you at a training class in the near future. Come engaged and excited, we have many new things to share with you!

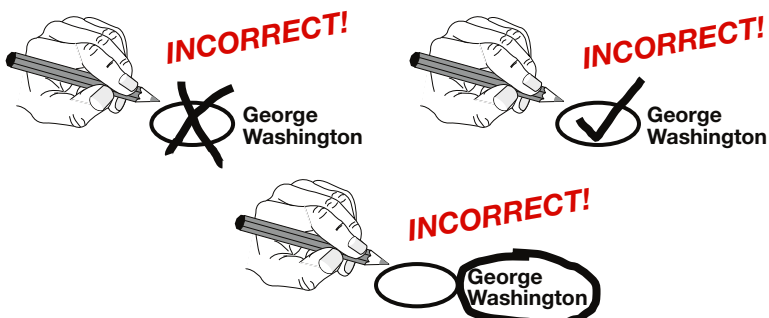


Our trainers are: Carlos Abuchaibe, Audria Aldridge, Errica Butler, Christina Cabezas, Nicholas Chung, Dyatha Colebrook, Latonya Counts, Roberta Dixon, Ray Figueroa, David Forestier, Sherrelle Germain, Kathy Halasz, Tom Hess, Nathan Kurland, Simona Marlow, Enoc Marrero, Rodney Moore, Shirley Player, Jack Vines, Barbara Walters, and Sandra Williams.

DO mark your ballot this way:



DO NOT mark your ballot in the following ways:



Improperly marked votes WILL BE REJECTED

Congratulations!

Clerks and Assistant Clerks Who Received a Perfect Score in the Clerk Certification Training Program from 11/28/07 to 04/14/08.

NAME	PCT.
Regina Prizont	021
Itziar Diez	036
Salli R. McClemens	039
Inta Berzins	039
Janette Kemp	149
Mida Johnson	161
Thaddeus Brandys	181
Mary Louise Cruz	209
Wondra Jackson	217
Xavier Pichs	239
Rasamma McKinnie-Hilton	240
Jeanne Gomez	246
Toneka Finch	252
Tangie Clark	355
Priamo Fernandez	406
Adysney Socarras	425
Gilda Bustillo	451
Bobbi Farias	451
Terry Clavin Colebrook	508
Luis Enrique Fernandez	566
William Pritchett	635
Angela C. Cruz	713
Suzanne Wilson	726
Stanley Hodes	738
Katherine Fernandez	747
Valerie Baker	748
Ulrick Desert	766
Harold Gonzalez	775
Linda Wetherspoon	802
Tina Williams	814
Robert Frank Christensen	821
Renate Delanie Arnold-Brown	831
Carol Timmons	832
Paul Levitan	840
Sandra G. Dickerson	851
Nancy Ann Merritt	902
Diane Cynthia Otis	902
Gail Leakan	907
Eward C. Powell	919

Miami-Dade Elections

Registration Statistics as of 4/15/08

Republican	364,367	33%
Democrat	483,157	43%
Other	270,145	24%
TOTAL	1,117,669	

New Positions

Two new poll worker positions have been added to the Election Board family. The first position is the Quality Assurance Specialist (QAS). The QA Specialist's primary responsibility on Election Day is to assist voters in completing Provisional Ballots and Affirmations. They will also be required to review all precinct forms, after they have been completed by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for accuracy. The Miami-Dade Elections Department created this position to assist the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, which will in turn allow them to better manage the precinct.

The second position is the DS200 Inspector. This Inspector will be responsible for assisting voters to their ballots into the DS200. They will take the voter's Voter Authorization Slip (VAS) and assist them if the voter needs to replace a spoiled ballot page.

Training for the QA Specialist position will be held at the Elections Department with ongoing training throughout the next countywide elections. Training for the Optical Scan Voting Equipment will begin on June 2, 2008. The launch of this position will be in the August Primary, so call your Poll Worker Scheduler at (305) 499-8448 to schedule a class today.

Poll Worker Pulse is now available in either hardcopy via mail or electronic copy via email. Please confirm your delivery preference by contacting Kaye Johnson, Outreach Section Supervisor, at 305-499-8380 or email kayej@miamidade.gov.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Miami-Dade Elections Department • www.miamidade.gov/elections
305-499-8448 • TTY: 305-499-8480

Carlos Alvarez
Mayor



Board of County Commissioners

Bruno A. Barreiro, Chairman
Barbara J. Jordan, Vice Chairwoman

Barbara J. Jordan District 1	Katy Sorenson District 8
Dorrian D. Rolle District 2	Dennis C. Moss District 9
Audrey M. Edmonson District 3	Sen. Javier D. Souto District 10
Sally A. Heyman District 4	Joe A. Martínez District 11
Bruno A. Barreiro District 5	José "Pepe" Díaz District 12
Rebeca Sosa District 6	Natasha Seijas District 13
Carlos A. Gimenez District 7	

Harvey Ruvín
Clerk of Courts

George M. Burgess
County Manager

Robert A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

Miami-Dade County provides equal access and equal opportunity in employment and services and does not discriminate on the basis of disability.

"It is the policy of Miami-Dade County to comply with all of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act."

